

FROM: ROGER RAY, C/O DISTAD, MARSHALL ISLANDS
 TO: USERDA, DR. JAMES LIVERMAN, WASH, DC
 INFO: USERDA, DR. M. B. BILES, DOS, WASH, DC
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 FOLDER BIKINI - MISC correspondence
9/74-12/75

UNCLASS.

FIRST MAJURO REPORT

THE DOI PRESS RELEASE OF AUG 23 REGARDING BIKINI HAS HAD A SEVERE AND WIDE RANGING IMPACT. NOTE A MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE RELEASE, SAIPAN DATELINED AUG 29. MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF MLSC IS QUOTED AS TERMING "DOUBLY TRAGIC" THE "ERDA. . . CALLED FOR . . . DELAY BECAUSE LEVELS OF RADIO-ACTIVITY IN SOME AREAS OF BIKINI ARE HIGHER THAN FEDERAL RADIATION STANDARDS. "

IT IS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD HERE, BOTH OFFICIALLY AND PUBLICLY, THAT ERDA DID INDEED CALL FOR THE 6 MONTH DELAY. THIS, IN THE OPINION OF DISTAD DEBRUM DERIVES FROM AN EXCHANGE AT THE AUGUST 12 LIVERMORE MEETING INVOLVING PRINCIPALLY DEBRUM, MLSC LAWYER ALLEN AND DR. BILES. BILES IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ASKED WHAT ACTION HE WOULD TAKE WITH PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF BIKINI IF THE 40 HOUSES ON BIKINI ISLAND HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN CONSTRUCTED. HIS ANSWER IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN THAT HE WOULD "QUARANTINE" BIKINI ISLAND.

COPY OF TWX

WHETHER OR NOT THE ABOVE IS PRECISE OR IN CONTEXT, IT IS THE SINGLE MOST DISTURBING IMPRESSION TO THE BIKINIANS.

THIS LEAVES DEBRUM REALLY NO CHOICE BUT TO DISCOURAGE OR DENY USE OF THE BIKINI HOUSES. I BELIEVE THAT TO BE UNWARRANTED AND BILES COMMENTS TO HAVE BEEN MISINTEPRETED. I AM SURE THAT WE CAN AND SHOULD CONVEY TO DEBRUM ET AL THAT WE HAVE AMPLE KNOWLEDGE TO ASSURE THEM THAT THE EXISTING HOUSES CAN BE SAFELY INHABITED, UNDERSTANDING, OF COURSE, THAT THE DIET NOW IS AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FROM IMPORTED SOURCES, AND GROUND WATER MUST REMAIN SUSPECT.

THE SIX MONTH DELAY MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL TO ME. THERE ARE SOMETHING OVER 100 KILI PEOPLE READY TO RETURN AND INHABIT BIKINI HOUSES. SIX MONTHS FROM NOW NOTHING WILL HAVE CHANGED EXCEPT THAT WE WILL KNOW A BIT MORE ABOUT FOOD CHAIN CONSIDERATIONS. BUT THE FOOD CHAIN IS NOT AT ISSUE FOR EARLY UTILIZATION OF THESE HOUSES.

I HAVE TOLD DEBRUM THAT WHAT I THINK BILES INTENDED TO CONVEY WAS THAT IF NO HOUSES EXISTED ON BIKINI HE WOULD NOT SUGGEST PUTTING THE FIRST RESETTLEMENT COMMUNITY THERE; THAT WE WOULD STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE FIRST SETTLEMENT ON ENYU AND

AND CONTINUE TO STUDY BIKINI. IF BILES WERE TO SO CLARIFY HIS REMARKS I BELIEVE DEBRUM WOULD, IN THE ABSENCE OF DOI INSTRUCTION TO THE CONTRARY, PROCEED WITH RESETTLEMENT TO THE CAPACITY OF THE PRESENT HOUSES. AND WATER CATCHMENTS. HE HAS ASSURED ME THAT EXISTING TERRESTRIAL FOODS CAN BE KEPT OUT OF THE DIET. I URGE A BILES CLARIFICATION BY RETURN TWX.

OUR DISCUSSION WITH KILI PEOPLE WILL BE CENTERED AROUND THREE THEMES:

1. WITH SOME REASONABLE CONSTRAINTS, EXISTING HOUSES ARE ENTIRELY SAFE FOR HABITATION.
2. WE STRONGLY URGE AND ENCOURAGE A SHIFT OF EMPHASIS IN LONG TERM COMMUNITY PLANNING FROM BIKINI TO ENYU.
3. WE WILL CONTINUE RESEARCH, MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE AND SHOULD, STARTING ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM NOW, BE ABLE TO START ADVISING ON BIKINI ISLAND FOOD ITEMS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE FOR SOME YEARS THAT BIKINI ISLAND WILL PRODUCE ACCEPTABLE SUBSISTENCE CROPS.

IN ADDITION TO THE REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF DR. BILES COMMENTS (PLEASE ADDRESS ME CARE OF DISTAD DEBRUM WITH COPY CARE OF CMDR KMR) WE NEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO KNOW

WHETHER IN FACT A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO DELAY BIKINI RESETTLEMENT. I AM NOT AWARE THAT ANY SUCH POLICY DECISION HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO DEBRUM. IF THERE HAS BEEN SUCH A DECISION, I RECOMMEND IT BE REVERSED. IF THERE HAS NOT, THEN WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO CORRECT THE RECORD BY A PRESS RELEASE FROM HERE. DISTAD DEBRUM CONCURS.

ROGER RAY SENDS.

SEP 15 1975

PASO ROUTING SLIP			
	A	I	PLS. SEE ME
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PROJECT ENGINEER <i>Pd/24</i>			<i>HOLD</i>
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